2004-2005

Saturday, October 23, 2004
8 pm. St. Basil's Church

University of Toronto
Faculty of Music
presents

RAISE THE SONG

The University of Toronto MacMillan Singers
Doreen Rao, *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting*

The University Women's Chorus
Robert Cooper, C.M., conductor

I

The University Women's Chorus
Robert Cooper, conductor
Mia Bach, pianist

David Willcocks (b.1919)	Psalm 150
Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)	Hvalite imia Ghospodne (*Praise the name of the Lord)* Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospoda (*Bless the Lord On My Soul*)
Eleanor Daley (b.1955)	A Psalm of Praise
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)	Wie Lieblich sind deine Wohnungen *(How Lovely are the dwellings)*
Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)	Psalm 23 - The Lord is my Shepherd Hannah Rahimi, flute Tyler Dunham, oboe

- INTERMISSION -

II

The University of Toronto MacMillan Singers
Doreen Rao, conductor
James Bourne, pianist
Andrei Streliaev, organist

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)	Heilig ist Gott der Herr Zebaoth (Psalm 118)

Salamone Rossi (ca.1570-1630)	Odekha (Psalm 118)
Daniel Brewbaker (b.1951)	Psalm 51
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)	Hariu l'Adonai (Psalms 108/100 from *Chichester Psalms*)
Srul Irving Glick (1934-2002)	Adonai, Adonai (from *Triumph of the Spirit*)
Frank Ticheli (b.1958)	There Will be Rest

III
The University Women's Choir and MacMillan Singers
Doreen Rao, conductor

Robert Kyr (b.1952)	Three Psalms of Praise (2004 Canadian premiere) Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 98/100) The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23) Give Praise with Joyful Song (Psalm 148/150)

IV
The University Women's Choir and MacMillan Singers
Robert Cooper and Doreen Rao, conductors

Rupert Lang (b.1948)	Yabban, Yamman (from *Mass for Many Nations*)
Flory Jagoda arr: Nick Page	Hamisha Asar
Z. Randall Stroope	Dona Nobis Pacem (from Isaiah 11) Taylor Strande, Soprano

Program Notes

Tonight's **Choirs in Concert** program, ***Raise the Song***, opens the 2004-2005 Faculty of Music choral series with two of the University's undergraduate choirs, the MacMillan Singers and the University Women's Chorus.

Through a diverse and eclectic concert program of mostly Old Testament texts set by established and emerging composers, tonight's mosaic of featured compositions is unified thematically by the traditional Welsh hymn, "hyfrydol," often known as *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.* Performed this evening by the combined choirs, Robert Kyr's ***Three Psalms of Praise*** is a newly composed "hymn cantata" in which the familiar "hyfrydol"

is stated in the vocal part writing and developed by the composer throughout his three-movement work.

This evening's final piece ***Dona Nobis Pacem*** composed by University of Nebraska composer Z. Randall Stroope, ends with one verse of Rowland Prichard's 1830 melody set to Old Testament text from Isaiah. The audience is welcome to join the choirs on the hymn.

I

Wie liechlich sind deine Wohnungen
How lovely are they dwellings (Psalm 84 (83):1-4)
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)
English Translation by Mary Josephine Augusta Cass (1882)

Wie lieblich sind Deine Wohnungen,
O Herr! Es sehnt sich meine Seele nach dem Vorhof des Herrn.
Mein Herz frohlockt in dem lebendigen Gotte.
Denn der Spearling findet sein Haus,
Und die Taube Obdach in Sturm,
ich finde deine Altäre.
O du mein König, Herr und Gott!
Selig, selig, selig sind die in deinem Haus wohnen,
in alle Ewigkeit, in alle Ewigkeit loben sie dich!
Barmherzig keit und Wahrheit liebt Gott,
und denen, die da wandeln in Unschuld,
gibt er Gnade, gibt er Gnade, Gnade und Herrlich keit!

How lovely are they dwellings,
O Lord! My soul doth long, yea!
Fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
My heart exults in the living God,
Jehovah.
For the sparrow findeth her house,
And the dove a shelter from storm,
I find, rejoicing, Thy altars.
Though King almighty, Lord and God!
Blessed, blessed, blessed are they that make Thy house their dwelling,
To all eternity, to all eternity, still praise they Thee!
Yea! Mercy and truth loveth our God,
And unto souls aye walking full purely,
grace he giveth, grace he giveth, grace and glory too!

Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospoda
Bless the Lord, O My Soul Opus 9, No.18 (The Introductory Psalm at the All-night Vigil)
Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)

Bless the Lord, o my soul
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
O Lord my God, Thou hast become exceedingly glorious.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
In wisdom hast Thou made all things.
Glory to Thee, O Lord, who hast created all!

Hvalite imia Ghospodne
Praise the Name of the Lord, Opus 9, No.23 (from the Matins Service Psalm 135:1;136:1, 26)
Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944)

Praise the name of the Lord;
Praise the Lord, O you His servants. Alleluia.
Blessed be the Lord from Zion,
He who dwells in Jerusalem. Alleluia.
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever. Alleluia.
O give thanks unto the God of Heavens,
for His mercy endures forever. Alleluia.

II

Felix Mendelssohn composed numerous Psalm settings and Sacred Cantatas. *Psalm 118* for double chorus was originally set for orchestra and choir in 1843. The study and performance of Mendelssohn's choral music continues throughout this academic

year with a forthcoming performance of Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 2 "Lobegesang" (Hymn of Praise), scheduled for January 29 with the U of T Symphony Orchestra in the MacMillan Theatre.

Salamone Rossi's *Odekha* (Thank You, Lord) is an unaccompanied Hebrew motet for the synagogue. In the avant-garde of his time, Rossi was active at the court of the Gonzaga family in Mantua at the turn of the seventeenth century. Written for SSATTB in a concerto-like style, this setting of four verses from Psalm 118, is chanted in the synagogue as part of the joyous "Hallel" service on festive days.

Ódekha kí anítaní,
Vatehí lei líyshua.
Even ma'asu habbónim
Hayeta lerósh pinna.
Mé'ét adónay hayeta zót,
Híy niflat be'énénu.
Ze hayyóm asa adónay,
Nagíla venismekha vó.

I praise You, for You have answered me,
And have become my deliverance.
The stone that the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD'S doing;
It is marvelous in our sight.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
Let us exult and rejoice on it.

Psalm 118:21-24
From *The TANAKH: The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text.* Copyright 1985 by the Jewish Publication Society. Used by permission.

New York composer **Daniel Brewbaker**'s works are performed by orchestras and choirs around the world. Commissioned by Valery Gergiev and the Kirov Chorus and Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia, James Conlon and the Cincinnati Symphony and Chorus, Gerard Schwarz and the Seattle Symphony among many others, Dr. Brewbaker is currently working on a violin concerto for Vadim Repin and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, a viola concerto for Yuri Bashmet and a String Quartet for the 100th Anniversary of the Julliard School. His new song cycle, "The Journey" was recently premiered by the American mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade in Napa Valley. Daniel Brewbaker's choral works have been premiered by Doreen Rao in Ireland, the United States and Canada. *Psalm 51* was premiered by the Holy Trinity Church in Elgin, Illinois in May 2003, conducted by the composer.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.
O Lord open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.
For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it:
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Leonard Bernstein composed *Chichester Psalms* in the spring of 1965 at his Manhattan apartment while on a sabbatical leave from the New York Philharmonic. Commissioned by Dr. Walter Hussey, the dean of the Chichester Cathedral and sung by the combined cathedral choruses of Winchester, Salisbury and Chichester, Bernstein set the Psalm texts in the original Hebrew. Partly because of the work's Broadway elements, the Chichester Psalms is considered Bernstein's most popular choral work. The first movement combines two Psalm texts, verse 2 from Ps. 108 and the entire Ps. 100.

Ps.108 vs.2
Urah, hanevel, v'chinor!
A-irah shahar!

Ps.100
Hariu l'Adonai kol haarets.

Iv'du et Adonai b'simba.
Bo-u l'fanav bir'nanah.
D'u ki Adonai Hu Elohim.
Hu asanu, v'lo anahnu.

Amo v'tson mar'ito.

Bo-u sh'arav b'todah,

Hatseirotav bit'hilah,
Hodu lo, bar'chu sh'mo.

Ki tov Adonai, l'olam has'do,

V'ad dor vador emunato.

Awake, psaltery and harp:
I will rouse the dawn!

Make a joyful noise unto the
Lord all ye lands.
Serve the lord with gladness.
Come before His presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord, He is God.
It is He that hath made us, and
Not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep
Of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with
Thanksgiving.
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful unto Him, and bless
His name.
For the Lord is good, His mercy
Is everlasting,
And His truth endureth to all
Generations.

Triumph of the Spirit is a five movement dramatic song-cycle for choir and orchestra (or piano) composed by **Srul Irving Glick**. The 1996 work was dedicated to Elmer and Jessie Iseler, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and to Dr. Daniel and Maralyn Glick, the composer's brother and sister-in-law. The works' fourth movement, *Adonai, Adonai* is based on a traditional Jewish hymn. Like the other movements, this piece expresses the inner joy of recovering from adversity, celebrating the gifts of God, and acknowledging the triumph of the spirit as Srul Irving Glick did over and over again during his lifetime.

Adonai, Adonai,
Eil rachum v'chuanun,
Erech apayim, v'rav chesed veemet,
Notzeir chesed laalafim,
V'nakei.

The Lord, the Eternal
Is gracious and compassionate,
Patient, abounding in loving kindness
And faithfulness,
Assuring love for a thousand
generations
Forgiving iniquity, transgression and
sin,
And granting pardon.

California composer **Frank Ticheli** chose the text of American poet Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) to memorialize the death of a young child in his lyrical work, *There Will Be Rest.* Among her last poems, this beautiful poem serves as a perfect summary of the poet's lifelong concern for the stars and their ancient promise of peace.

There will be rest, and sure stars shining
Over the roof-tops crowned with
snow,
A reign of rest, serene forgetting, The
music of stillness holy and low.
I will make this world of my devising,
Out of a dream in my lonely mind,
I shall find the crystal of peace,—above
me Stars I shall find.

Words by Sara Teasdale from The Collected Poems of Sara Teasdale
(New York: Macmillan, 1937). Reprinted with permission of Simon & Schuster

III

American composer **Robert Kyr**'s *Three Psalms of Praise* was written for Doreen Rao and was premiered in July by the conductor at the Smetana Hall in Prague and again at St. David's Hall in Cardiff.

"When Doreen Rao asked me to create a choral work based on the beloved hymn, 'Hyfrydol' from the Welsh tradition, I was thrilled. It has always been one of my favourite hymns, and I liked the challenge of taking a familiar tune and exploring it in a variety of ways. She also asked me to work with the theme of divine love, as revealed in the first line of the hymn's standard test, 'Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,...'

Three Psalms of Praise present three different views of divine love: the first psalm proclaims 'For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forevermore'; the second psalm presents the Lord as the loving shepherd who comforts his flock in times of greatest distress; and in the final psalm, the Lord is praised for the magnificence of the creation, which was offered to humanity as a gift of love. In particular, the first and third psalms celebrate the joy of praising God with sound ('Make a Joyful Noise' and 'Give Praise with Joyful Song'). Throughout, I have strived to create music that is filled with pure colours, flowing melodies, and light.

In my mind, the second psalm is directly related to my own experience (through the media) of our world at war in a time of uncertainty and terror. In such times, psalm 23 has a special meaning, and one understands certain lines in new ways: 'Even though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil for Thou art with me...Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.' I envisioned young people singing this psalm with the hope that 'the table' being prepared is the lasting peace that we all want; they are singing for the healing of the world." - *Robert Kyr*

Robert Kyr holds degrees from Yale (B.A.), University of Pennsylvania (M.A.), and Harvard University (Ph.D.). He teaches at the University of Oregon, where he directs the Music Today Festival, the Vanguard Concert and Workshop Series, and the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium.

IV

Rupert Lang wrote *Mass for Many Nations* to reflect the diverse aspects of our global community as embraced by the mission of Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver. *Yabban, Yamman* is Aramaic for Father, Mother. This movement is written to represent Hebrew influences; the text paraphrases Frances Sommervill's the "Lord's Prayer."

"Hamisha Asar" are the Ladino words (the Spanish Hebrew language spoken by Sephardic Jews) for "Tu Be'Shevat," the Jewish holiday in the spring that celebrates the time when sap begins flowing in the trees. The composer **Flory Jagoda**, remembers that as a child she would "go house to house, carrying a colorful bag made by our mothers, to gather the customary fifteen kinds of fruit and then join in the festivities."

Hamisha Asa, Hamisha Asar
Come to visit us, we will sing

The hostess awaits us
With 15 platters of fruit

Blessed by his name, Lord of the Universe
Fruits of Israel

Hamisha Asar, Hamisha Asar
Come to visit us, let us dance

The hostess awaits us
With baklava and coffee

-Flory Jagoda

Written for choir, organ and soprano soloist, composer **Randall Stroope**'s *Dona Nobis Pacem* develops from the Old Testament text of Isaiah. Toward the end of the work, the composer introduces the Welsh hymn tune, "hyfrydol" sung tonight by the combined choirs on the text: *"A shoot will come from the stump of Jesse, From his roots a branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the Lord will rest on him. And in that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner to all people, and his place of rest shall be glorious Dona nobis pacem."*

Biographies

One of Canada's leading choral conductors, **Robert Cooper, C.M.,** began his career under the tutelage of Helmuth Rilling and Robert Shaw. He is currently the Artistic Director of the *Orpheus Choir of Toronto*, *Chorus Niagara*, the *Opera in Concert Chorus,* and is a teaching member of the Choral Department, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. As a superb choral trainer and conductor, Mr Cooper also provided strong artistic leadership to the *Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir* for 22 successful years, influencing over 2000 young adult singers. Many of those singers have gone on to solo careers, while others are adding their own voices to various choirs across Canada.

He enjoys a distinguished career as a guest conductor and clinician working with many of Canada's leading choral organizations and provincial choral federations. He has had the honour of conducting the *National Youth Choir* of Canada and made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1997 for a Celebration of Canadian Choral Music. He recently conducted concerts with Symphony Nova Scotia and the London Symphony, as well as conducting Newfoundland's *Festival 500* and productions for Toronto Operetta Theatre. In addition to his work with choirs, Robert Cooper has been involved with the presentation of more than 80 operas and has been a frequent guest conductor with opera companies across Canada. This October Mr. Cooper adjudicated the international choral competition *Let the People Sing* in London, England. He has also recorded CD's of both opera and choral music and provided choral backup for films and Stratford Festival productions.

Robert Cooper has served as President of both the Ontario Choral Federation and the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and is on the Board of Directors of Chorus America. To complete the circle, Mr. Cooper brings fine choral music to all of Canada as Executive Producer, Opera and Choral Music, for CBC Radio Two.

In June 2003 Robert Cooper received an Honorary Doctorate degree from Brock University for his significant contribution to the Canadian choral community. Also in the same year, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

Doreen Rao's distinguished career as a conductor and teacher links the standards of professional performance with the goals of music education. Celebrated for her spirited and moving concert performances, Rao's commitment to choral music is recognized in her worldwide conducting appearances, her university teaching and research, and her award winning publications.

Awarded the University of Toronto *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting*, Doreen Rao serves as Artistic Director of the Centre

for Advanced Studies in Choral Music, a university enrichment program of the Performance and Music Education Divisions. As Director of Choral Programs, Rao conducts the MacMillan Singers and the MacMillan Singers Chamber Choirs. She teaches advanced choral conducting and graduate courses in music education.

During her long association with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Doreen Rao prepared choruses for concerts, tours, and recorded performances that won four Grammy Awards and a Grand Prix du Disque under Sir George Solti, Margaret Hillis, and James Levine. She regularly prepared choruses for Leonard Slatkin and the St. Louis Symphony and Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festivals. She was Artistic Director of the award-winning Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus and is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on children and youth choirs.

In a pioneering career of "firsts" Rao has conducted honour choirs, all-state choirs, festival choirs, and all-world choirs for numerous international festivals and conferences. In a national tribute presented to her by the American Choral Directors Association, the eminent conductor Robert Shaw wrote: The world of choral music owes her special thanks. She is preparing our future. Journalist Bronwyn Drainie described Doreen Rao as a brilliant artist and teacher...whose methods and materials could re-energize the art of singing in our schools. Dr. Rao is the recipient of numerous honours and awards including the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia National Citation for her significant and lasting contribution to the cause of American music.

Founded by Doreen Rao in 1994, the University of Toronto **MACMILLAN SINGERS** were named to celebrate the legacy of Sir Ernest MacMillan, an inspired performer and devoted teacher who influenced every aspect of Canada's musical life.

Representing the Faculty of Music in concerts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the University of Toronto's Bach Festivals with Maestro Helmuth Rilling, the young ensemble of gifted singers performs a wide range of culturally diverse and distinctive repertoire with a demonstrated commitment to the performance of contemporary choral music.

Most recently the young ensemble won 1st Prize in the 2004 CBC National Choral Competition and a Special Prize for "the best performance of a Canadian work." This season the MacMillan Singers perform Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 2, Lobegesang (Hymn of Praise) with the UTSO and Stravinsky's Nightengale with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Gianandrea Noseda.

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Choirs in Concert

2004-2005 season

Doreen Rao, Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting
Director of Choral Programs

Raise the Song
Saturday, October 23
The MacMillan Singers and University Women's Chorus, Doreen Rao and Robert Cooper, conductors. Psalm settings by Canadian and American composers.
8 pm. St. Basil's Church.
$13 ($7 senior/student)

University Voices Spotlight
Friday, November 12
Soundstreams Festival of Canadian University Choirs
8 pm. Walter Hall.
$13 ($7 seniors/students)

The Kiss of Peace
Friday, November 19
MacMillan Singers Chamber Choir, Doreen Rao, conductor. Ancient and modern settings of Agnus Dei.
8 pm. Walter Hall.
$13($7 seniors/students)

In High Voice I
Saturday, November 27
University Women's Chorus, Robert Cooper, conductor
8 pm. Victoria College Chapel.
$13($7 seniors/students)

Christmas Gahu
Saturday, December 4
MacMillan Singers, Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Ghanaian Master Drummer Kwasi Dunyo. An Afro-centric evening of singing, dancing and drumming.
8 pm. MacMillan Theatre.
$13($7 seniors/students)

University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, MacMillan Singers & Elmer Iseler Singers. Raffi Armenian and Doreen Rao, conductors
Saturday, January 29
Weber: Euryanthe Overture
Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 2 "Lobegesang"
8 pm. MacMillan Theatre
$17($9 seniors/students)

In High Voice II
Friday, February 11
University Women's Chorus, Robert Cooper, conductor
8 pm. Knox College Chapel.
$13($7 seniors/students)

Performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
March 9 & 10
The MacMillan Singers appears with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Stravinsky's Nightingale.
8 pm. Roy Thomson Hall
FOR TICKETS CALL 416.593.4828

U of T Bach Choir in Concert with the Elmer Iseler Singers, Artists-in-Residence
Friday, March 18
Doreen Rao and Lydia Adams, conductors
8 pm. St. Basil's Church.
$13($7 seniors/students)

University Choirs in Concert Gala
Saturday, April 2
The University of Toronto Choirs in a celebration concert. Doreen Rao, Robert Cooper and Brainerd Blyden Taylor, conductors.
8 pm. St. Basil's Church.
$13($7 seniors/students)

For tickets call 416-978-3744

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MACMILLAN SINGERS

Doreen Rao, *Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting*

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Heather Barnes
Maggie Chan
Maureen Clark
Ayanda Dalamba
Xin Emily Ding
Erica Feggans
Sarah Gibbons
Lisa Lorenz
Vania Margani
Tamara Mitchell
Grainne O'Flynn
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Melanie Steenburg
Taylor Strande
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Emily Bolhuis
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Cian Horrobin
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Jeffrey Newberry
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David Roth
Aaron Tsang
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Robert Cooper, conductor

SOPRANO 1
Lauren Bird
Maegan Heller
Laura Klassen
Christine Lee
Joanna Leung
Cecilia McKibbon
Alicia Mighty
Kathleen Moore
Stephanie Oke
Brooke Richardson
Christine Suh
Tamara Vaughan

SOPRANO 2
Irene Apanovitch
Raylin Barnsdale
Natalie Basta
Julia Bentley
Tracee Noelle Downer
Roseane Greco
Kristin Haynes
Laura Kim
Susan Lam
Natalie Mak
Jennifer Matys
Sarah Pomper
Megan Prashad
Angie Roides
Anne Wong
Justine Wong
Elizabeth Margery Young

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Vivian Chiang
Angel Chen
Larissa Doherty
Natalie Giajewski
Grace Ha
Emma Heath-Engel
Chelsea Hughes
Maria Kaushansky
Danielle Kolenko
Andrea Nagy
Lindsay Tsuj
Yana Zhalezniakova

ALTO 2
Sachi Adachi
Rebecca Banman
Maria Christina Chern
Elaine Choi
Veronika Davy
Tanya Krosel
Chelsea Laird
Allison Law
Candice Leung
Karyn Raymond
Jee Eun (Megan) Shin
Amy Valyear
Deyi Ye
Jiao Zhang

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Daniel Harley
Mohamed-Aly Farag

Violin II
Jenny Kwon
Aviva Lufer

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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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